

This Week's News

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday December 7th, 2025

Updates from the IRTS

We are delighted to announce that Megan Lorenz EI5LA and Paraic Nolan EI2LH have been co-opted to the IRTS committee. We warmly welcome them onboard and wish them the very best in their new roles. The IRTS seeks candidates interested in the position of automatic station coordinator. It primarily involves acting as a coordinator in relation to new or updated automatic station licence requests. The workload is very light and doesn't require deep technical or policy expertise. For more details about the opportunity, please contact the IRTS Honorary Secretary via email to [irts_secretary /at/ irts.ie](mailto:irts_secretary@irts.ie)

The IRTS news team will be taking a small break once again this year over the Christmas period. The last 40m and 80m IRTS news bulletins for 2025 will be transmitted on Sunday next, December 14th. There will be no news bulletins on either Sunday December 21st or Sunday, December 28th. Items for submission for the last radio news of the year should reach the news team by midnight on Thursday next, December 11th. Normal bulletins will resume on Sunday, January 4th, 2026. Items for the first IRTS radio news bulletin of 2026 should reach the news team by midnight on New Year's Day, Thursday January 1st.

North Dublin Radio Club EI0NDR Christmas Party

The North Dublin Radio Club are holding their annual Christmas party event at the Coachman's Inn, Swords Road, Dublin on Saturday the 20th of December. A four-course dinner will commence at 6.45 p.m., and the cost is 30 euro per head. All visitors are welcome to attend this event. To book a place at the dinner, please contact Tony EI6K on 086 2985776. The North Dublin Radio Club meetings will then break for Christmas and will reopen again in the new year on Saturday the 3rd of January 2025. NDR would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2026. Details about the club and its location can be found online at www.ei0ndr.com

Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club Updates

The Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club will hold its next meeting and Christmas get together in Wolfe Tone's GAA Clubhouse, Shannon on Saturday 13th December at 11.00 a.m. They will be having a relaxed breakfast there and ask as many members as possible to make an effort to attend. The Eircode for the GAA Clubhouse is V14RX78. In other news, they are happy to say that construction of their new dedicated shack at the Shannon Aviation Museum is at a very advanced stage with only painting and refitting left. With members' help, it is hoped to complete these jobs during the Christmas and New Year break.

South Dublin Radio Club's Christmas Celebration

South Dublin Radio Club will have their annual Christmas celebration at the Morgue Pub in Templeogue Village on Tuesday 9th December 2025 from 7.30 p.m. All club members, regular visitors, and friends of the club are invited. The club will reopen on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at the usual time. The members and committee of SDRC would like to wish all radio amateurs, SWLs, and all at the IRTS a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 73 from EI2DSR.

Santa coming to Shannon Basin Radio Club

Shannon Basin Radio Club restarted their SSB DX net on topband last week. Conditions were reported as good with a large turnout of stations ranging from Ireland to Italy. The next SSB DX net takes place on the 80m band next Thursday night from 9 p.m. in the region of 3.775 MHz plus or minus QRM. All are welcome to join in including SWLs.

The club is excited to announce that Santa will take some time out from his preparations to have some QSOs with junior ops before the big day. On Saturday December 20th, he will be QRV calling as Echo Icicle Two Santa Before Christmas EI2SBC via the club's repeater from 5 p.m. onwards. As his time is limited, it is best to register at www.sbrc.ie/christmas by Thursday December 18th. The EI2SBR repeater located on Sliabh Bán in Roscommon has an output frequency of 145.775 MHz and uses a 77Hz CTCSS tone. It can also be accessed via Echolink and is linked to the Truskmore repeater EI2TKR. Shannon Basin Radio Club wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society Christmas Party

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society's Christmas party was held on the 3rd of December. After the IRTS weekly news bulletin and call-in, Jim EI2HJB supplied tasty sausages and chips to all club members. Tea and coffee followed with a rendition of the club's achievements and general chat in relation to where the club would like to progress into 2026 to expand its membership and activity on the frequencies. The Dundalk Amateur Radio Society wishes Happy Christmas to all radio enthusiasts.

VHF/Microwave News

The IRTS VHF-plus management team continues to review the list of repeaters, gateways, and beacons listed on the IRTS website. Thanks to everyone who have spotted errors and submitted corrections so far. Further information to help update the records would be most welcome via email to vhf_manager@irts.ie

One of 2025's most exciting meteor showers has begun. The Geminid meteor shower reaches its peak on the night of December 13th and 14th. If curious about meteor scatter propagation, it is an ideal opportunity to try it out due to the high rate of meteors per hour. This can range anywhere from 40 to well over 100 per hour. The centre of activity is 144.360MHz mainly using the MSK144 mode.

Rally and Events Updates

The first IRTS 80m Counties Contest of 2026 takes place on New Year's Day, Thursday January 1st at 17:00 UTC. This runs for one hour and details may be found at irts.ie/contests

The 2026 Phoenix Amateur Radio Club Rally known as the "Coolmine Rally" will take place on Sunday, the 15th of February 2026. Doors open at 10 a.m. at the usual venue, which is Coolmine Community School, Dublin, D15 FW97.

Lagan Valley Amateur Radio Society will hold their annual rally on the 7th of March 2026 at the Hillsborough Village Centre, 7 Ballynahinch Road, Hillsborough, BT26 6AR. Doors open at 10.30 a.m., and the rally ends at 1 p.m. The Hillsborough Village Centre is just off the main A1 Road linking the north and south of the island. Further details can be found at www.lvars.uk

Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News

That is the news for this week. Thanks to everyone for sending items into the weekly IRTS radio news. They are very much appreciated and are a great way to update the rest of the community about activities. If you have any club events, activities, meetings, or other items of interest, you are very welcome to email newsteam /at/ irts.ie with the details. These will be automatically forwarded to the IRTS radio and printed news services. The deadline each week is midnight on Thursdays. The final HF news bulletin for 2025 will be transmitted next Sunday, December 14th.
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